

MIT's Oldest and
Largest Newspaper

tech.mit.edu



WEATHER, p. 3

FRI: 69°F | 58°F
Partly cloudy
 SAT: 73°F | 53°F
Mostly sunny
 SUN: 67°F | 53°F
Mostly sunny

Volume 135, Number 16

Friday, June 5, 2015

State of New Jersey drops Tidbit inquiry

Subpoenaed undergrad had been suspected of hijacking computers

By William Navarre
NEWS EDITOR

The state of New Jersey has agreed to drop its investigation into Tidbit after previously issuing a subpoena to Jeremy Rubin '16 requiring that he turn over the program's source code, log files, and other information.

Rubin, whose team designed Tidbit at a hackathon in Nov. 2013, wrote on his blog that he is "relieved," but that he's "sad that [his] 'showdown' with the state of New Jersey went so far in the first place."

Tidbit was intended to eventually allow client websites to use their visitors' unused processing power to mine bitcoin, according to the Electronic Frontier Founda-

tion, whose attorney represented Rubin in court. The revenue earned through bitcoin mining would offset the need for advertisements.

New Jersey was worried about the effects the tool could have on web users in the state. "[Tidbit's] own description of its services strongly suggests that [it is], in fact, designed to hijack consumer's computers," the state wrote in a brief responding to Rubin's motion challenging the subpoena.

The Superior Court of New Jersey ultimately ruled in favor of the state, citing the "broad scope" of the relevant statute.

The court expressed reservation in its opinion, however: "The Court

Tidbit, Page 16



CHRISTOPHER A. MAYNOR—THE TECH

Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 and Professor Anantha P. Chandrakasan, the faculty representative for the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, invest a doctoral degree hood during Thursday afternoon's hooding ceremony in the Johnson Athletics Center. Michael J. Massimino PhD '92, a former NASA astronaut, gave the address to the candidates.

IN SHORT

MIT Summer Session begins Monday, June 8.

The deadline to initiate Fall pre-registration and to indicate CI-H and CI-HW preferences is Monday, June 15. The CI-H and CI-HW lottery closes after that date, and anyone initiating pre-registration after that date will face a \$50 late fee.

LaVerde's Market is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. during the summer.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

Faculty urge divestment in open letter to Reif

Language was drafted prior to Vice President Zuber's call for faculty action

By Katherine Nazemi
NEWS EDITOR

A group of 79 faculty members has signed an open letter to President L. Rafael Reif expressing their support for divesting MIT's endowment from fossil fuel companies. The letter comes as the Climate Change Conversation (CCC) prepares to release its report to the community.

Simultaneously, yet apparently independently, 21 MIT student groups have signed their own open

letter to President Reif advocating for "bold and immediate action" on climate change. The student letter includes divestment as one of several recommendations, alongside launching an "MIT Manhattan Project for climate science," and im-

INSIDE THE ISSUE
Read the letters to President Reif on page 5 and see who signed on.

proving sustainability on campus. The faculty letter, too, notes that

divestment should be taken as part of a broader set of actions; however, it does not discuss what those potential actions might be.

Professor Ian Condry, a signatory to the letter, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that "Divestment is the single, clearest, most powerful statement we can make that MIT takes climate change seriously," and added that "divestment has to be part of a broader action plan" which includes "reduced emissions, reduced reliance on carbon fuels, and a carbon tax."

"I've had several conversations with President Reif and other upper administration officials, and they have emphasized the need to do something 'action-oriented,'" Condry wrote. "I couldn't agree more. Divestment would help set us on the path to additional action."

The letter specifically calls for the divestment of MIT's endowment from fossil fuel companies; it does not explicitly discuss the role of oil companies or the fossil fuel

Divestment, Page 17

UROP minimum wage to increase

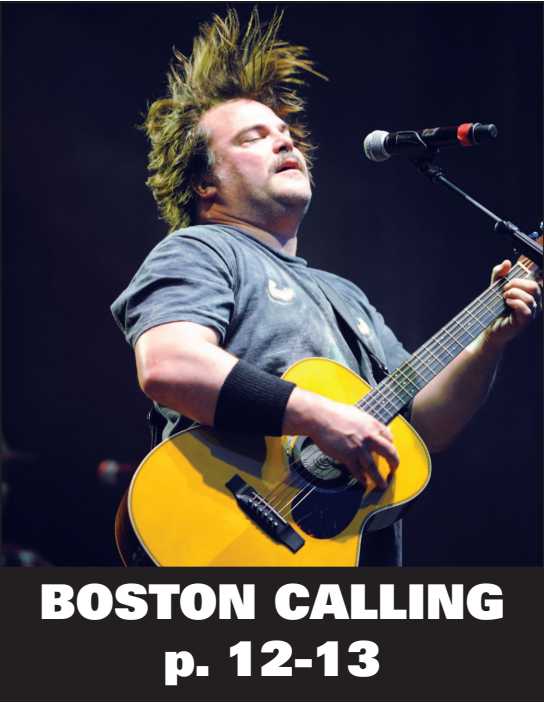
The minimum hourly wage for MIT's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program is slated to increase to \$11.50 over the next two years, according to an email from Julie B. Norman, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education.

The hourly pay will increase twice to reach the Institute's goal. The first increase will be on June 1, 2016, and will bring the minimum wage up to \$11. The second increase will occur one year later.

The change is in line with the Undergraduate Association's agenda. UA President Matthew J. Davis '16 stated at a Council meeting last month that the UA will push for increasing student wages and advocate for increased summer UROP pay, according to a UA email. The aim is to reduce stress and financial burdens for students, some of whom "spend inordinate amounts of time outside of the classroom to afford their education."

The current minimum wage for UROP students is \$10.00 per hour, and has increased by only \$1.25 since 2001.

—Ray Wang



DANIEL MIRNY—THE TECH

Jack Black, from Tenacious D, rocks out during the Spring Boston Calling Music Festival.

OBITUARY

Judith Layzer, professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, dies at 53

By Peter Dizikes
MIT NEWS

Judith Layzer, a professor at MIT and an accomplished scholar who produced influential work on environmental policy and politics, died Thursday after an extended illness. She was 53.

Layzer had been on the faculty of MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) since 2003, and had served as associate head of the department since 2014.

Layzer's research explored the politics of environmental policies, and the role of science in shaping public debate

on these matters. Scientific evidence, as she detailed in many of her writings, provides a powerful foundation for environmental advocacy — but policies do not always simply follow from that science, she noted, since disputes over the environment are often contested between groups with differing or opposing values. In this context, Layzer concluded, the quality of environmental advocacy matters greatly.

For instance, those combating climate change — a position Layzer supported publicly — needed a "politically compel-

Layzer, Page 20

SOCIAL JUSTICE

How can we center conversations about diversity on campus?

CAMPUS LIFE, p. 11

WEATHER

Will you survive commencement?
WEATHER, p. 3

SUDOKU

You forgot your pen, didn't you? FUN, p. 8

PITCH PERFECT 2

The hit movie's sequel is far from perfect.

ARTS, p. 14



POVERTY IN THIS COUNTRY

Let's look at what's been tried abroad.

OPINION, p. 4

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CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2015

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WEATHER

Commencement to be partly cloudy

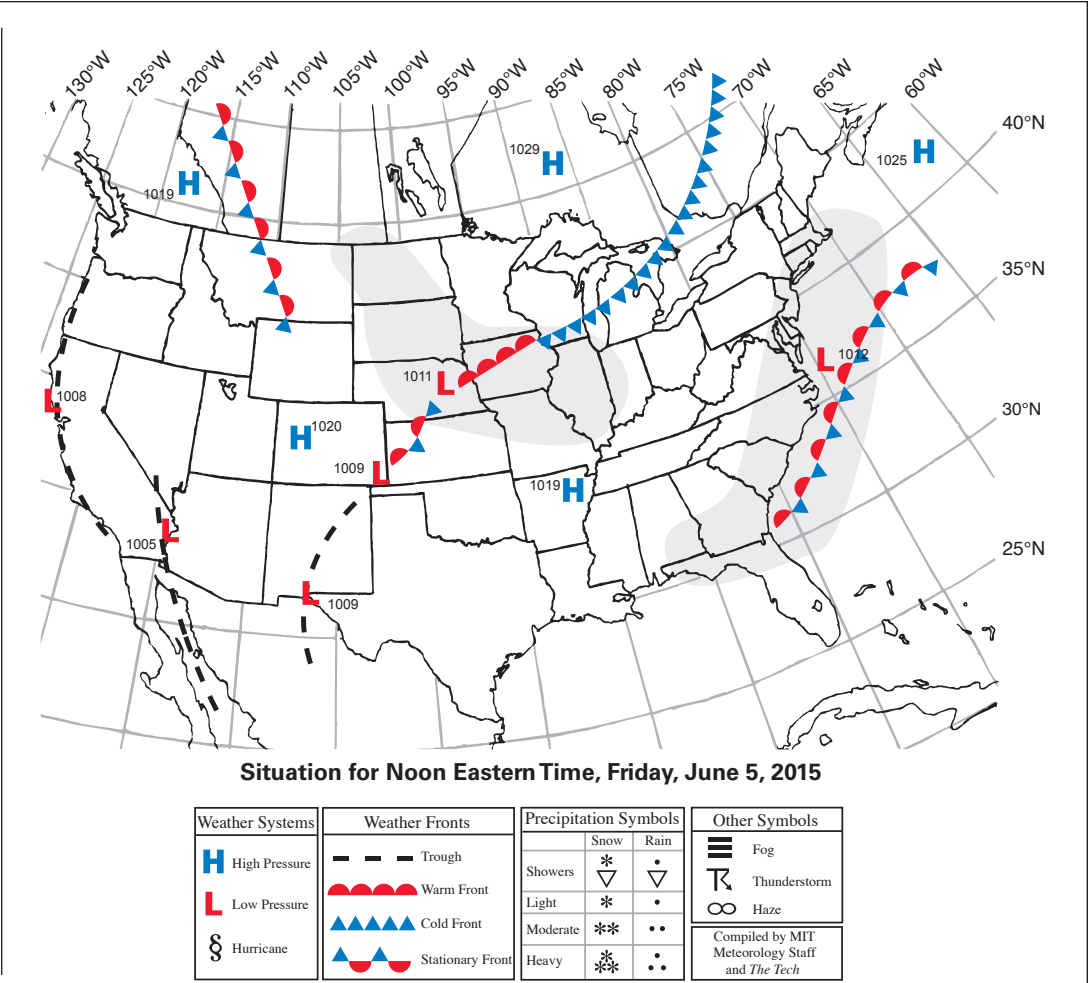
By Vince Agard
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The month of June is off to its coldest start in Boston’s recorded history. Until this week, there had never (since records were first kept in 1872) been a day in June during which the temperature in Boston didn’t reach at least 50°F. However, the high temperatures on both Monday and Tuesday, June 1 and 2, were only 49°F. The unseasonable cold began to abate on Wednesday as sunshine returned, bringing temperatures into the mid-50s. This warming trend will continue through the weekend, as temperatures slowly make their way back

up to seasonable levels. For this morning’s commencement exercises in Killian Court, expect temperatures to start off in the mid-50s °F (around 12°C), with a mix of sun and clouds as the temperature rises to the upper 60s (around 20°C) by noon. Depending on its exact orientation, an afternoon breeze could knock temperatures back down a few degrees (if the wind is off the water), or nudge them above the 70-degree mark. Overall, though, the weather should be enjoyable for graduates and audience alike, as it won’t be too hot or too windy, and — most importantly — rain is not in the forecast.

Extended Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high 69°F (21°C). Winds SE at 5-10 mph.
Tonight: A chance of showers, low 58°F (14°C). Winds S at 5-10 mph becoming W.
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 73°F (23°C). Winds N at 5-10 mph.
Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s (20°C), becoming cooler in the afternoon.
Monday: A chance of showers. Highs in the lower 70s °F (22°C).



CONGRATULATIONS!

The Susquehanna International Group of Companies (SIG) would like to congratulate the following students on their upcoming graduation. We acknowledge the hard work and commitment they have put forth to arrive at this significant academic milestone and welcome them as full-time members of the SIG team:

SAM TRABUCCO
Receiving a Bachelor’s in EECS and Mathematics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

PAUL YUAN
Receiving a Bachelor’s in Mathematics with Computer Science and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

ADISA KRUYATIDEE
Receiving a Bachelor’s in Computer Science and Mathematics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

SIG also welcomes the students joining our 2015 Summer Internship Program:

MARTIN MA
KEVIN LI

CHARLIE ALEX-BARTON
KEVIN WEN

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

sig.com



Solution to Sudoku
from page 8

1	6	7	4	2	8	5	9	3
5	9	8	6	7	3	4	2	1
4	3	2	5	9	1	8	6	7
8	2	4	3	1	6	7	5	9
7	5	6	9	4	2	3	1	8
3	1	9	7	8	5	6	4	2
9	7	1	8	6	4	2	3	5
2	4	5	1	3	7	9	8	6
6	8	3	2	5	9	1	7	4

Solution to Techdoku
from page 8

1	5	4	2	3	6
2	6	5	3	4	1
5	3	2	6	1	4
3	1	6	4	5	2
4	2	1	5	6	3
6	4	3	1	2	5

Solution to Baby Techdoku 1
from page 7

1	2	3
2	3	1
3	1	2

Solution to Baby Techdoku 2
from page 7

2	3	1
3	1	2
1	2	3

Solution to Crossword
from page 7

BARR	HUT	SCALE
AREA	TARE	OLDER
SURCHARGE	LOVER	
IBUY	EXPENSIVE	
CAN	NCO	ODENSE
	TRU	SILL
	SUIT	THEY
EMTS	LEO	URIS
LOOK	CHEAP	ONME
MOW	HOWL	CAP
ODAMAE	ICI	SUE
	WARREN	BUFFETT
SMALL	DEALS	WITH
HOYLE	DART	IKEA
HISSEY	YRS	WORN

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Statistics and the new Institute for Data, Systems, and Society

Fostering a culture of statistics should be a key priority for IDSS

By Feras Saad

Earlier this semester, Provost Martin Schmidt and the Deans of the five schools announced the establishment of the Institute for Data, Systems, and Society, headed by Professor Munther Dahleh. This exciting new entity aims to “address societal challenges using analytical tools from statistics and information and decision systems,” and will officially launch on July 1.

While the inaugural letter and subsequent news coverage of IDSS outlined the entity’s high-level objectives and structure, little has been said about the proposed Center for Statistics. In comparison to peer institutions such as Stanford, Columbia and Berkeley, which have long-established statistics departments, the current structure of statistics at MIT is highly fragmented.

From my own experience, I have enrolled in several well-taught statistics courses in the Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Brain and Cognitive Science departments. However, given the different approach assumed by each department, it is challenging for students to progressively build a unified sense of sophistication and maturity in statistical thinking.

According to the proposal submitted by Professor Dahleh, The Center for Statistics plans to address this issue by offering coherent, centralized programs in statistics. Degrees at the PhD and Master’s levels are in their planning stages, and a full proposal for an undergraduate minor has already been submitted to the Committees on Curricula and Undergraduate Programs. While establishing world-class graduate level programs is a key priority, it is equally important for the visionaries of IDSS to develop a culture of statistics that interests and engages members of the MIT community from various academic backgrounds.

New introductory courses in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science are already reflecting this goal, such as 6.0002 (Introduction to Computational Thinking and Data Science) and 6.008 (Introduction to Inference). According to Professor Dahleh, a joint effort across all Institute schools is being coordinated to offer new courses in statistics and data sciences. The idea is to extend these opportunities to departments that are not heavily quantitative, such as Political Science, Anthropology, History, and Urban Studies.

The goal is not to create an unconscious

statistician out of everyone at MIT. Rather, we should encourage the skill of analyzing data from various fields from a statistical standpoint. Even an elementary probability and statistics requirement (a topic debated at the Institute for over a decade) could lay the essential foundations for incoming freshmen. For example, regression methods yield useful insights when studying data, and they do not require a vast amount of mathematical machinery to get started.

We should encourage the skill of analyzing data from various fields from a statistical standpoint

One common misconception is that statistics is a dry subject of mainly theoretical interest. But 21st century statistics is experiencing a revolution, fuelled by the explosion of data and computational power. An inaugural symposium for The Center for Statistics was held at MIT earlier this month, where top academics from

across the country discussed their use of statistics in novel areas such as cancer detection and data-driven decision-making in industry. To promote these ideas among the MIT community, Professor Dahleh says the plan is to hold a regular seminar series in the future.

Most of the core elements for a successful statistics center already exist at MIT; over a dozen departments and research centers feature their own flavor of statistics research and course offerings. It will be interesting to see how IDSS integrates various groups across campus in a way that fosters successful collaboration. Creating a hub for sharing ideas between data scientists and social scientists will bring a new dimension to both fields, as well as innovative, real-life research outcomes.

IDSS is a highly ambitious and complex initiative that faces an array of academic, financial, and bureaucratic hurdles. But the project identifies a genuine shortcoming in MIT’s current academic system and outlines a vision for change. Successfully tackling societal issues with rigorous statistical frameworks will cement MIT’s academic and thought leadership, as well as nurture generations of experts in interdisciplinary domains for decades to come.

A farewell to the Class of 2015

Thoughts from a Junior

By Keertan Kini
STAFF COLUMNIST

Today, new scientists and engineers, economists and financiers, academics and professionals leave MIT and begin their careers, among them many of my closest friends and colleagues. What strikes me most about this time of year is the atmosphere: not the fatalism that follows exam week or the relief at having reached a vacation, but rather a quiet (or not so quiet) sense of anticipation and hope for life beyond the Institute from those convening in Killian.

To be fair, the vast majority also appears thrilled and terrified in equal measure at having to enter the “real” world. Nevertheless, after long years of study, this class of passionate, ambitious individuals can now pursue purpose, or at least possibilities. There is a palpable sense of idealism around how the world will be shaped by those who have already left indelible marks on MIT. Ills both social and medical may be alleviated, corruption cleaned, and companies constructed.

Yet there is no greater poison pill, no more insurmountable barrier to finding that

purpose and achieving progress than falling prey to cynicism. As comedian George Carlin aptly stated, “Inside every cynical person, there is a disappointed idealist.” This climate of idealism provides fertile ground for such cynicism because disappointments will come.

There is a palpable sense of idealism around how the world will be shaped by those who have already left indelible marks on MIT

The last time I felt this atmosphere was as a freshman, facing a wealth of opportunities and a mostly-blank slate upon which to write. Yet as the years passed, I have felt in my own class and in the Class of 2015 a weariness biting. A veil of fatigue has slowly fallen, obscuring the possibilities that once excited and delighted. Living pset to pset and enduring repeated all-nighters has left many jaded, whether about the present cir-

cumstance or the future promise. Idealism distorted to cynicism. It may again, soon.

In the celebrations that have already begun, it is painless to forget that the coming challenges may dwarf those already surmounted as undergraduates. It is painless to imagine that societal problems are for others to address and to absolve oneself from shouldering the burden. It is painless to concede that the minds of individuals cannot be changed and therefore any such effort made is futile. It is painless to criticize those who do not take said painless routes, struggling with failure and mistakes to make that progress.

It may be painful to admit that those with the ability to act have the responsibility to act, and that we have the ability. It may be painful to admit that lifetimes must often be committed to achieve breakthroughs; as Max Weber put it, “Progress is the slow boring of hard boards and anyone who seeks to do it must risk his own soul.” It may be painful to hope and believe in the face of repeated disappointment, the price of idealism.

It is infinitely more difficult to remember these lessons when surrounded by congratulatory friends and family, after the long and

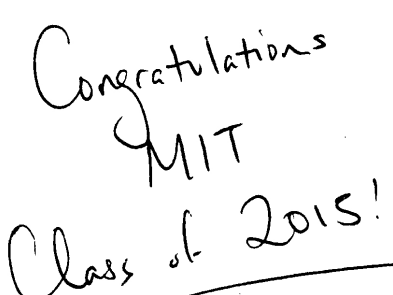
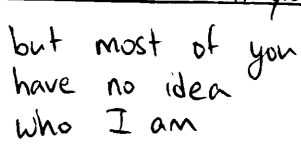
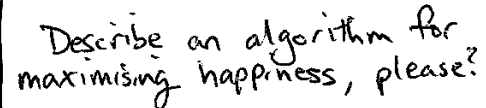
arduous journey that is the undergraduate degree. Yet to forget them is to lose sight of the road ahead.

Two of my personal heroes, Louis Brandeis and Mahatma Gandhi, embodied practical idealism, using ideals to set their goals and pragmatism to guide their approaches. Whether by fighting in the courtroom as the “People’s Attorney” and as a Supreme Court Justice, or by fighting in the hearts and minds of the people for nonviolent civil disobedience, both Brandeis and Gandhi accepted progress, however slow and steady, yet driven by a clear vision. When aspiring to do great things, whether as a schoolteacher or a CEO, this is among the most impactful means. These icons did not live to see all their goals fulfilled, but the strength of their actions and characters continue to shape our world.

There is great work yet to be done, and I hope that this sense of possibility does not disappear, but rather acts as a new fuel to the roaring flame of the graduating class’s achievements.

Congratulations and well done! I expect I shall have more and more cause to say that in the coming years.





Solution, page 3

		7	4			5		
5					3		2	1
	3			9		8		7
8			3					9
			9		2			
3					5			2
9		1		6			3	
2	4		1					6
		3			9	1		

Solution, page 3

20x			24x		6x
7+	30x		3		
	6x		48x		
12x		21+			
	1-		5		15x
144x					

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Congratulations to *The Tech's* Class of 2015

Denis Bozic
Tami Forrester
Chennah Heroor
Austin J. Hess
Casey Hilgenbrink
Judy Hsiang
Letitia Li
Jacob London

Christopher A. Maynor
Annia Pan
Sherry Xiaoyi Ren
Esme Rhine
Steve Sullivan
Melissa Renée Schumacher
The Tim
Kali Xu

Susie: Hey Ethan!

Ethan: What's up?

Susie: I'm looking for a job on campus. Do you have any ideas? I like programming and computers.

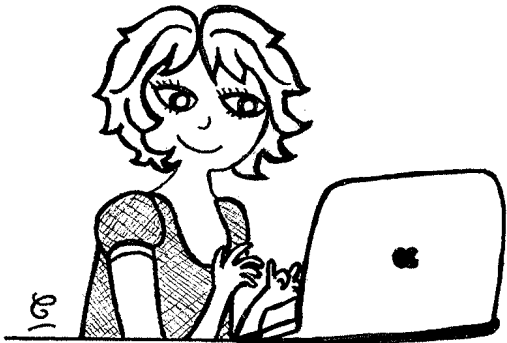
Ethan: You should join the technology department at The Tech! We pay \$14/hr.

Ethan: You get to learn valuable job skills too!

Susie: Cool, but what if I don't know that much yet?

Ethan: We've got people who can help you out.

Ethan: E-mail join@tech.mit.edu and we'll send you more info!





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INTUITIVELY OBVIOUS

The time is right: social justice at MIT

By Abigail Francis

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. As an institution we are standing in reflection and grief after too many deaths of our students and employees. Nationally from Ferguson to Baltimore, we are grappling with large scale racial and class injustices. I was asked to contribute to this ‘Intuitively Obvious’ column, and it is a good time for us to consider how best to care for each other, our community, and for ourselves.

This summer will mark my tenth year here at MIT. As I think about our social justice work, I am reminded of a quote from Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens can change the world.” I have come to realize that it is only so long that the same small group of people can continue to help keep students and each other safe, functional, productive, and whole. I believe we need more citizens, more commitment, more thought, and more institutional infrastructure to bolster the efforts of the few incredibly dedicated and talented staff, students, alumni, and faculty working to create positive change.

Some of the most important work that I do is in supporting those who fall within the margins of the marginalized. People are often surprised to learn that so much of the community building I offer is with LBGTQ self-identified people of color, women, people with disabilities, and international students. I have such respect for them — especially those who have told me that they are alive today because

of the work we’re doing. Despite losing their tuition funding or all their support networks after coming out to their friends or family, they have found the space and the courage to love or to be who they truly are, even in the face of harassment and discrimination in these very halls.

We all hold a collective responsibility to shape the future of MIT. So today I ask us these challenging questions:

If we are to fulfill our mission “to work with others and bring knowledge to bear on the world’s great challenges” and “to work wisely and effectively for the betterment of humankind,” then how do we, as an institution, work to ensure that there are more black men in our colleges than in our prison systems?

What would it take to ensure that all women of color on our campus shared the same level of self-esteem and self-confidence as their peers and colleagues?

With students and faculty that have ties all over the world, what does it mean for us that there are 80 nations that criminalize homosexuality, seven of those where it is punishable by death, or that there are 32 states where you can still be fired for being LBGTQ identified?

How do we address the fact that roughly one in four females and one in seven males in the US will experience sexual violence, even here at MIT?

How do we acquire more accurate data on, offer more support to, and track the progress of

our transgender, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming students?

What would it take to have our staff and faculty match the diversity of our undergraduate student body?

How can we change the fact that based on student quality-of-life survey data, LBGTQ students, students of color, women, and international students are significantly less satisfied here, some even reporting that they feel less safe on campus and more isolated than their majority group peers?

What would it mean to have more trained, experienced, and qualified leaders in social justice helping to shape our future?

As I plan social justice efforts, I keep hearing (mostly from those with majority group identities) that MIT is not “ready” to talk about privilege, especially white privilege. I think that we are. At this time in our nation’s history, we have a responsibility to talk and to act, to undo and eliminate racial injustice as well as sexism, heterosexism, cis-gender privilege, and other forms of oppression. As Martin Luther King Jr. put it, “the time is always right to do what is right”.

Now, I know that we have made some strides forward. We should take pride in these. We have added gender-affirming surgeries to our health insurance policy. We are looking to add gender-inclusive housing options and more gender-neutral restrooms across campus. We have created an Institute Community and Equity Office and broadened

resources and staffing in Violence Prevention and Response and in Student Support Services. We have several offices and student groups that focus on supporting various aspects of people’s identities, and those groups are making more connections with each other. We have created Employee Resource Groups, included diversity-related awards in our recognition programs, and host an annual MLK scholars program and Diversity Summit. This list could go on.

What would it take to have our staff and faculty match the diversity of our undergraduate student body?

But if “diversity” is listed as one of the four main initiatives on our homepage, why are there still so few resources available for these efforts? How can we help that same small group of volunteers striving to move mountains with regard to equity, inclusion, respect, justice, and campus climate? What would it look like if we understood, valued, and talked about “diversity” in the same way that we talk about cancer, global initiatives, or energy?

Imagine what could happen if, today, each of us thought about one area of identity or social justice where we are less comfortable — nationality, religion, class, sexual orientation, gender iden-

tity, race, size, ability, age — then leaned into that discomfort and read an article, talked to a friend, listened to a podcast, or watched a video to learn more. What if we each took action regarding something we had learned? What if we could then challenge an internal bias that we hold, offer an educational lens to a degrading joke, or intervene in a micro-aggression that we witness? Yes, this work is messy. It is uncomfortable. It is in everyone’s and in no one’s job description and academic pursuits. It is relatively unclear. But if we make the time and effort, dedicate resources, learn more, and invite someone to join us, then eventually we all move forward.

This winter we organized a peaceful protest and panel discussion about if and how Black Lives Matter at MIT. Following the event I made a list of “the ten racist things I saw while planning an event about race at MIT.” And here’s the thing: I’m on that list twice. Sometimes the hardest and most important aspect of this work is how we transform ourselves along the way. That includes being honest, compassionate, accountable, and patient with ourselves and with others. Because there is so much work to do. We put this event together in just two weeks and then 430 people showed up. The momentum is here. The time is now. Remember, “the time is always right to do what is right.” We collectively own the responsibility to shape the future towards more respect and caring for one another. I look forward to continuing this work, and I hope you will join me.

Abigail Francis is the Director of LBGT Services at MIT.

CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE



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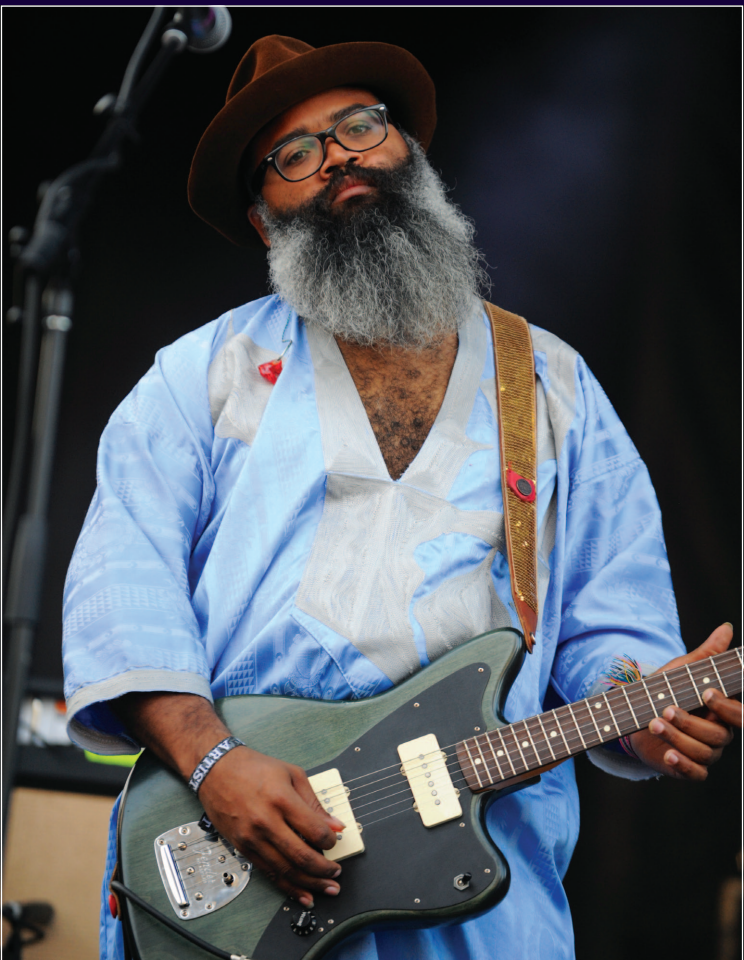
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BOSTON CALLING



1. More than two dozen groups performed at this year's Spring Boston Calling festival held during the last weekend of May. Headliners included Grammy Award winning soloist Beck, and Boston's own Pixies. Other well-known groups included Vance Joy, St. Vincent, Tenacious D, and Marina and the Diamonds. A wonderfully eclectic musical mix, Boston Calling proved yet again their remarkable ability to cater to Boston's diverse tastes. Boston Calling Fall 2015 will be held September 25-27 with performances by Alt-J, Hozier, Ben Howard, and many more. More information and tickets are available at bostoncalling.com.
2. Gerard Way sings to a cheering crowd in front of a massive pink and orange monkey backdrop.
3. Marina and the Diamonds sings in a sparkling violet jacket and a headband spelling "Froot", the name of her newly released album.
4. Jason Isbell, the singer-songwriter and guitarist from Green Hill, Alabama performs to a grooving crowd.
5. Australian singer Vance Joy smiles during a song in response to audience's enthusiasm.
6. Kyp Malone of the Indie rock band TV on the Radio plays bass during Day 3 of the music festival.
7. Tunde Adebimpe, of TV on the Radio, conducts the audience during the group's performance.
8. St. Vincent performs songs from her 2014 album, "St. Vincent".
9. Lead guitarist and vocalist Kyle Gass of the American comedy rock duo Tenacious D sings the group's top hit, "Tribute".
10. Two audience members walk towards the Red Stage as others relax on the brick between shows.

1	2	3
4	5	6 7
8	9	10



Poltergeist (2015): lots of action, some comedy, hardly any horror

★★★★☆

Poltergeist

Directed by Gil Kenan

Starring Sam Rockwell,
Rosemarie DeWitt, Kennedy
Clements

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

This remake of Steven Spielberg's *Poltergeist* (1982) sees a jobless couple and their three children move into a new home that fits their budget. Griffin, their ten-year-old son, lives in the attic, where he experiences frequent nightmares and finds frightening clowns in the closet. To make things worse, he also finds his younger sister Madison talking to mysterious objects through the TV in the middle of the night. "They're here," she claims ominously. His parents disregard his nervousness and their youngest daughter's sleepwalking until one night, their house is attacked and Madison is taken. The Bowsens discover that their house was built on what was an old cemetery, moved to make way for construction. To cut costs, the construction company moved the headstones but left the bodies — leaving the Bowsens to deal with some extremely unhappy poltergeists looking to move out of the limbo they are stuck in.

The remake has some stimulating visual and sound effects — the scenes featuring the



Madison Bowen (Kennedi Clements) reaches out to apparitions that have invaded her home.

erie clowns were particularly enjoyable. Kyle Catlett, who stars as Griffin, is convincing in his nervousness and in his role as a protective, if scared, older brother. Kennedy Clements makes an adorable Madison, compelling the audience to be concerned. The other characters and the plot, though, leave much to be desired. Sticking pretty close to the original, the changes in the remake mostly detract from it — the eccentric and enjoyable character Tangina is replaced

by a tacky TV show ghost-cleanser, played by Jared Harris, making the experience much less scary and much more like parody. Sam Rockwell and Rosemarie DeWitt, playing the parents of the kids, do an unconvincing job pretending to care that their child has been taken. On the plus side, there was no hysteria, but their parental instinct kicked in so late in the film that it had me wondering if they were the ones behind the kidnapping. The inclusion of comedy was interesting,

with some scenes being quite funny, but it seemed to add a lot of misplaced moments of humor and lent a very strange mood to the setting.

The 2015 remake pays homage to the 1982 original with action-packed sequences and great effects. Although quite enjoyable, it is, however, not half as scary as the original. I would recommend watching this movie for entertainment, but don't expect any nightmares.

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Court: subpoena is legal under statute

Court worries investigation may discourage 'cutting edge' research

Tidbit, from Page 1

has serious concerns that the [State of New Jersey], with this investigation, may be acting to discourage creative and 'cutting edge' new technology. [I]t appears that the Tidbit program and other similar creative endeavors serve a useful and legitimate purpose." The court also acknowledged, though, that the software "could also be subject to abuse and misuse."

Rubin and others believe that the subpoena might have done more harm than the State of New Jersey intended. He wrote that another company, 21, has raised \$116 million dollars toward their plans to use consumer devices to mine bitcoin.

"Had we not stopped operations due to the burden of fighting the subpoena, who knows! Perhaps we would have been able to capitalize on our first-mover advantage."

He'd had high hopes for the software: "Tidbit's design hoped to eliminate the need for advertising on websites, also eliminating the incentives for websites to violate

their users' privacy to make advertisements more lucrative," he wrote on his website.

MIT faculty members, administrators, and students had all sent letters to the state of New Jersey requesting that they withdraw the subpoena.

"We urge your office to reexamine the need to subpoena and impose interrogatories on the Tidbit students" President L. Rafael Reif, Provost Marty Schmidt PhD '88, and Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart '88 wrote in a letter to John J. Hoffman, New Jersey's acting attorney general.

"[A]n undue chilling effect arising from the subpoena and interrogatories served on Mr. Rubin will have adverse consequences in New Jersey as surely as at MIT."

Last week's settlement required Rubin to disclose a minimal amount of information and agree to pay a \$25,000 fine in the event that Tidbit violates the agreement by engaging in "unfair or deceptive acts" or accessing computers of persons in New Jersey without consent.

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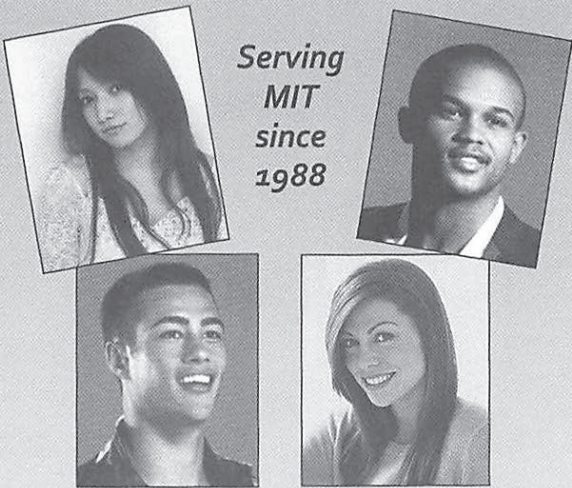
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Letters are part of larger conversation

Student letter garners signatures from some graduate living groups

Divestment, from Page 1

industry in funding MIT research on campus.

Among the faculty who signed the letter was Associate Professor Scott Aaronson. “Signing this petition wasn’t an obvious choice for me,” Aaronson wrote. “I’m sensitive to the charge that divestment petitions are ... a way for activists to feel morally pure without either making serious sacrifices or engaging the real complexities of an issue.”

However, Aaronson said that he decided to sign the petition after seeing that the organizers had “a clear-eyed understanding of what they were trying to accomplish and why.”

“They know that divestment can’t directly drive down oil companies’ stock prices, but it can powerfully signal to the world a scientific consensus that, if global catastrophe is to be averted, most of the known fossil-fuel reserves need to be left in the ground, and that current valuations of oil, gas, and coal companies fail to reflect that reality,” he wrote.

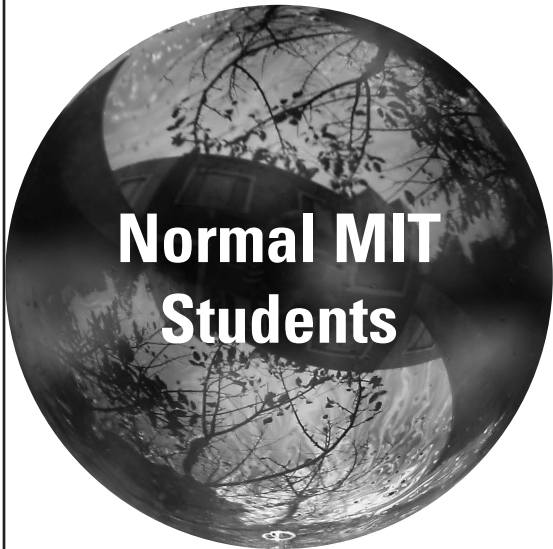
Professor Emeritus Noam Chomsky, who has spoken publicly in favor of divestment on several occasions, also signed the letter.

The faculty letter began to take shape after Professor Charles Harvey wrote to the MIT Faculty Newsletter in support of divestment. Initially, the faculty members who were contacted to sign the letter were those who had expressed support for divestment in the CCC’s Idea Bank. A full draft of the letter had already been written by the time Vice President Maria Zuber called on faculty to join the campus dialogue in the March/April Faculty Newsletter.

“The value we get out of MIT investments needs to align with our values. As faculty, we make those decisions all the time with our investments of time and energy,” Condry wrote. “Our hope is that MIT will do the same with our endowment.”

The student letter was organized by the UA Sustainability Committee, the Sustainability Subcommittee of the GSC, Fossil Free MIT, and the MIT Sustainability Club.

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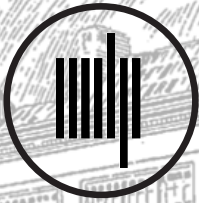


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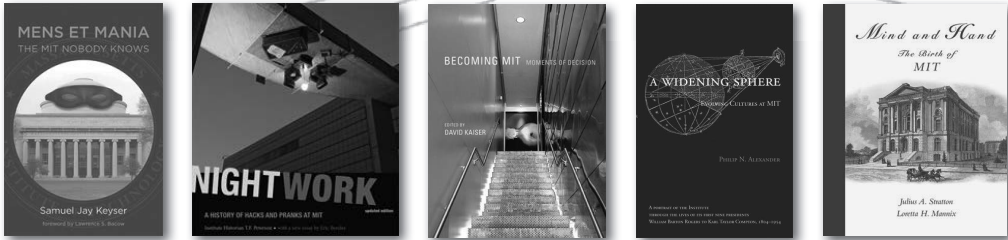
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New curriculum offered for students doubling in 6-1 & 8

Three 2015s majored in EE and Physics; combined major will provide substitutions, lighten courseload

By **Alexandra Delmore**
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Department of Physics and the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science have recently announced changes to the curriculum for undergraduates double majoring in Electrical Engineering (Course 6-1) and Physics (Course 8). According to Associate Department Head of EECS David J. Perreault, the changes will streamline the 6-1 and 8 double major. The changes came about after faculty and students expressed interest in improving the curriculum: “it was both a faculty and student initiative,” Perreault

said in an email to *The Tech*. The new track for the 6-1 and 8 double major is based on the 8-Flex option in physics and allows students to replace some of the requirements for 6-1 with classes from Course 8. Students double majoring in 6-1 and 8 can now fulfill the requirement for one of two required 6.01x subjects (6.01, 6.02, or 6.S03) by taking Vibrations and Waves (8.03), which is a requirement for 8-Flex. Electromagnetic Energy: From Motors to Solar Cells (6.007), can now be replaced with Quantum Physics I (8.04), satisfying one of three required foundation classes in 6-1 and a required class for

8-Flex. One of the three header subjects in 6-1 (6.011, 6.012, or 6.013) can now be replaced with Quantum Physics II (8.05), which can be chosen from among two other Course 8 subjects to fulfill a requirement in the 8-Flex track. In 2014, 2013, and 2012, five students double majored in 6-1 and 8 per year. This year, three students are graduating with double majors in 6-1 and 8. All other requirements for both the 6-1 and 8-Flex majors remain in place. These substitutions are only valid for students majoring in 8-Flex and 6-1 and do not apply to Course 6-2 or 6-3 majors.

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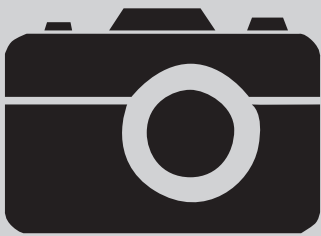
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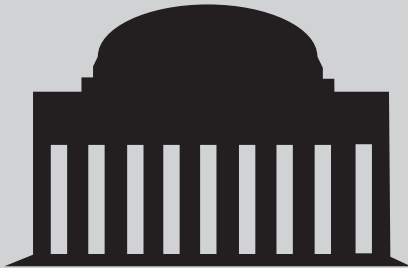
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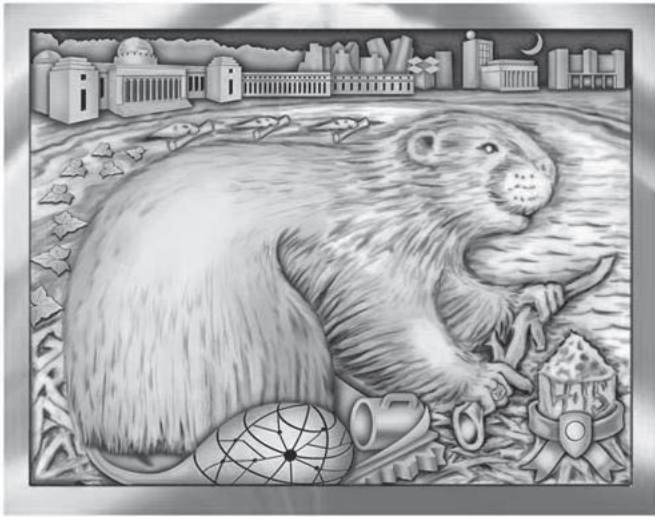
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Layzer, from Page 1

ling story” to gain more support, as she wrote in a Boston Review article in 2012.

“You have to fight ideas with ideas,” Layzer added in a 2013 interview with MIT News.

Within the field of environmental policy and politics, Layzer’s work ranged widely across topics, including clean air and clean water regulations, land protection, species conservation, and climate change. She had also become increasingly focused on issues of urban sustainability, including studies of food systems.

Layzer wrote three books and published numerous articles, among other scholarly accomplishments, while teaching highly regarded classes to MIT undergraduates and graduate students.

Layzer’s colleagues remember her as a person driven by a strong sense of ethics and possessing exceptional intellectual qualities.

“Besides being a brilliant scholar and exceptional writer, Judy was also a dedicated — and

demanding — teacher,” says Professor Eran Ben-Joseph, head of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. “She was an inspiration and a role model precisely because she expected the best from her students, her colleagues, and herself. She was tough, but always fair; stern, but always caring.”

Ben-Joseph adds: “Judy was motivated by intellectual curiosity and a zest for academic inquiry, but more importantly she was driven by an underlying sense of ethics and a core belief that we would be wrong — period, no qualifiers — to destroy the planet and its natural systems. She was a true friend who would often make you laugh and a scientist who would always make you think. She was a person of genuine integrity who will be sorely missed.”

Influential work, popular teaching

Layzer received her undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Michigan in 1985, and her PhD in 1999

from MIT’s Department of Political Science. Her doctoral thesis, “Sense and Credibility,” examined a series of environmental-protection disputes, ranging from the controversy over acid rain to restoration of the Florida Everglades.

In her work, Layzer detailed how science is a foundation for environmental advocacy, while noting that policy decisions are often settled by the relative strengths of the opposing coalitions. However, science-based advocacy, she asserted, can influence the strength of those opposing groups.

Her thesis research became part of her first book, “The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy” (CQ Press, 2002), an influential work now in its third edition; Layzer added considerable new material, on climate change and other topics, to the later editions.

Layzer’s second book, “Natural Experiments” (MIT Press, 2008), examined whether recent approaches to conservation

across the U.S. have been effective; she concluded that some of these programs are less likely to produce environmental improvements than policies enacted through traditional top-down political means.

In her 2012 book, “Open for Business” (MIT Press), Layzer examined how conservatives sometimes have succeeded in environmental debates by tapping into, among other things, public mistrust of regulation to argue for opening up federal lands for further development.

Layzer taught at Middlebury College from 1998 until 2003, when she rejoined MIT as an assistant professor in DUSP. She was promoted to associate professor in 2007, and to full professor in 2014; she also became head of MIT’s Environmental Policy and Planning Group in 2010.

Layzer gave talks at academic and policy conferences both around the U.S. and internationally. Awards she received included the Lynton B. Caldwell Prize for best book in environmental

politics and policy; the John C. Donovan Prize for Best Paper, awarded by the New England Political Science Association; the 2013 DUSP Graduate Student Council Advising Award; and the 2008 MIT Graduate Student Council Teaching Award.

Layzer supervised or read dozens of master’s and PhD theses in DUSP, and taught a wide range of courses, including the popular course 11.002J (Making Public Policy), as well as others on science and politics, energy politics, ecosystem management, and food systems.

Outside the classroom, Layzer was known to friends (and competitors) as a world-class ultimate frisbee player. The Boston-based club team she played for, known as “Lady Godiva,” won the U.S. national championship seven times between 1995 and 2002, and won the world championship in 1998.

Layzer is survived by her parents, David and Jean Layzer, and by her four siblings: Carolyn, Emily, Nicholas, and Jonathan.

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A year of many firsts for MIT sports

From football to pole vaults, MIT teams score big this season

By **Souparno Ghosh**
SPORTS EDITOR

From the football team scoring a last-minute field goal on the way to their first ever NCAA playoff victory, to the women's lacrosse team erasing a five goal deficit in the last twelve minutes and clinching their maiden New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Championship, to breaking a pole vault record at the New England Division III Track and Field Championship, MIT student athletes scaled new heights (pun intended) in the 2014-15 year. While some usual suspects continued their domination — like the men's tennis team winning their 17th consecutive NEWMAC title — there were a number of new frontiers reached this season. Here we take a look back at some of the 'firsts' for MIT sports.

Men's football goes unbeaten in regular season and clinches first NCAA playoff win

The men's football team went 9-0 with 7-0 in the New England Football Conference (NEFC) to record their first ever unbeaten season in program history. As

many as fifty student athletes from MIT were named to the NEFC All Academic Team. The Engineers were not quite done yet as they pulled off a thrilling victory in their first ever NCAA playoff appearance against Husson University. Matt Iovino '17 first blocked an extra point attempt to keep Husson's lead to just three points. Tucker Cheyne '17 then converted a 38 yard field goal to take the game to extra time, in which QB Peter Williams '15 hit Seve Esparrago '16 for a game winning touchdown. Elliot Tobin '17 claimed an honorable mention All-American from DIII football, in addition to being named NEFC Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Women's lacrosse clinches first ever NEWMAC Championship

The women's lacrosse team overcame old nemesis Springfield college by hammering in six goals in the last twelve minutes of regular season to clinch their first ever NEWMAC crown

and consequently a debut at the NCAA playoff. The Engineers dominated Regis College in their maiden NCAA playoff appearance, recording a resounding 19-5 victory. Leading the charge for the Engineers were NEWMAC Rookie of the Year Emily Young '18, who broke the program record for both points and goals scored, and Kira Schott '16, who was named to Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Association (IWLCA) all-region first team. Hannah Levy '17 and regular season's Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament Christine Jiang '16 also made key contributions to one historic season.

Softball team reaches NCAA Regional Championship Finals

Riding on some nasty pitching by Ellie Fodor '15, who finished with 143 strikeouts, a miserly 1.39 ERA, and a perfect game this season, the MIT softball team recorded their best finish (second in NEWMAC) in program history, notching up a record 29 victories. The Cardinal and Gray also recorded impressive victories over

Elms College and Wellesley College in the NCAA Regionals before falling to eventual champions, Tufts University. The Engineers were powered by Tori Jensen '16 and Amanda Lee '18, both of whom notched 35 RBIs, with the latter leading the team with 47 hits and a .395 average.

Women's tennis reaches NCAA Elite 8

The women's tennis team made it to the NCAA Elite 8 for the first time in program history when they overcame the more heralded Washington and Lee University. MIT closed out the regular season with a 15-5 record and made its third consecutive appearance in the Division III NCAA Championship. During the course of the season, Michelle Dutt '15 notched her 100th career win. The MIT women's tennis team was also awarded the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Sportsmanship Award for the month of May.

Track and field team shines at multiple events

The MIT women's cross coun-

try and track and field programs were awarded the Deb Vercauteren Program of the Year Award by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). The team finished

second at the Cross Country Championship and fourth and fifth at the Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships respectively. Coach Halston Taylor was deservedly named Coach of the Year. Cimran Virdi '16 capped a sensational season with her first outdoor pole vault title at the NCAA Championship to add to her tally of two indoor titles. She also jumped an NCAA DIII record of 14-0 in the New England Division III Championship. Virdi was rightfully named the Field Athlete of the Year by the USTFCCCA. Joining her on the USTFCCCA honoree list was Track Athlete of the Year, Maryann Gong '16. Gong won the 3000m at the Indoor National meet, along with first place finishes in the 1500m in the NEWMAC Championship and the 5000m at the New England Division III meet.

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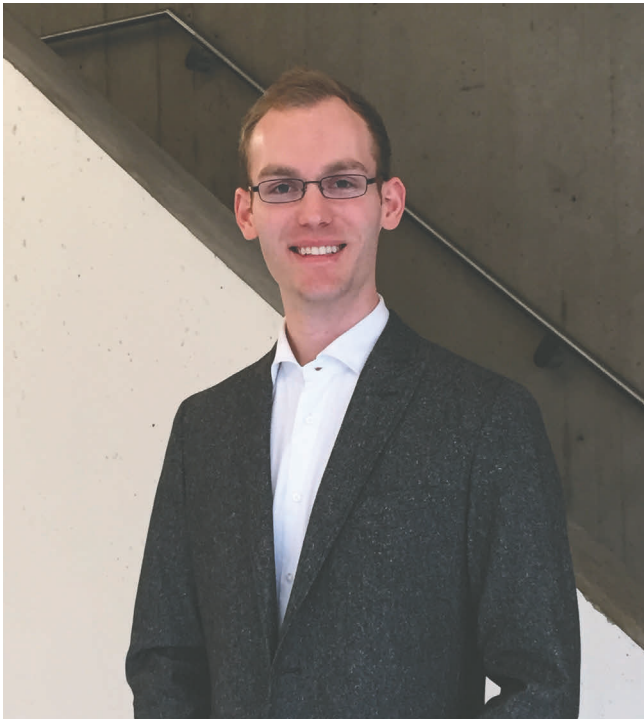
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